

# TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

*#EachWillThrive*



**HAMILTON HIGH  
SCHOOL BAND  
PERFORMS AT  
DISNEY WORLD!**



**WOODTV'S BLAKE HARMS  
MAKES A VISIT TO HAMILTON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL!**



**LEARNING FROM  
ONE ANOTHER**

**DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023**

# A MAGICAL TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## Hamilton High School Band performs at Disney's Magic Kingdom



Photo via Krystal Shelton



Photo via Tina Foidl

By: Zach Harig

It's called the "Most Magical Place on Earth" for a reason and over holiday break, the Hamilton High School band had a chance to experience it for themselves. Every four years, the band loads up the charter buses and makes the trek to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

On December 28, the band took center stage in Disney's Magic Kingdom, marching down Main Street for thousands to hear and look on.

"It was really fun," said junior tuba player Caroline Johnson, "We also did a small workshop where a director at Disney worked with our band and we played a few songs for him, that was awesome."

Some band members such as senior color guard and saxophone player, Abby Lindholm had siblings attend the trip in years past.

"I found out about this trip when I was in middle school, my sister was going on it when I was in sixth grade and I was so excited," Lindholm mentioned. "A full week with band and hanging out in Disney with all of my friends sounded awesome, and it was even more than I expected."

Not only was it a fun experience for the students, it was also an opportunity to learn from other bands and professionals in music. In fact, it helped solidify a future dream for junior drum major and saxophone player, Evan Talsma.

"I had always been considering being a professional musician and seeing the Disney musicians inspired me to do that," Talsma said. "We did a one-on-one workshop with a musician and were able to do a Q&A with him after. I asked him about auditioning at Disney and I became really set on doing something professionally in music, that's how I will remember this trip [twenty years from now]."

This opportunity was made possible by the band boosters and chaperones on the trip. A big thank you to all involved and a job well done to Mr. Joe Herrick, Mr. Paul Connelly and our incredible Hamilton High School band!

Photo via Scott Foidl



# BUILDING INDEPENDENCE: MRS. BOSCH'S ELEMENTARY INTENSIVE RESOURCE ROOM

By: Zach Harig



Scan the QR Code for a video  
inside of Mrs. Bosch's classroom!

## Hamilton Graduate Tanya Bosch continues to build life skills in her students



After graduating from Hamilton High School, it didn't take Mrs. Tanya Bosch long to find her way back to the district. In fact, Mrs. Bosch fulfilled her student teaching at Hamilton before being hired as a special education teacher in August 1999.

Now as the Intensive Resource Room teacher at Hamilton Elementary, she continues to help students succeed, not only in the classroom, but in every day life.

"My position is unique," Mrs. Bosch stated, "It's a highly specialized program but just like any teaching job, it can be very rewarding."

With the help of classroom paraprofessionals, therapists, social workers, and much more, Bosch makes it a priority to meet the needs of each individual student.

"This program and I am successful because of the support of our team, including our classroom paraprofessionals, occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, speech and language pathologists, and our administration team. They all help me be able to provide and meet to the students needs so they can be successful in a school setting," Bosch smiled.

While the class may be small in numbers and operates a bit differently, the smiles, laughter, and genuine impact remains. Mrs. Bosch keeps her class engaged every day with fun counting and vocabulary videos, dances, and much more. A big focus in the class is on getting students to communicate so every day, Mrs. Bosch has group sessions as the students introduce themselves, say the date, talk about the weather, and much more.

"In the Intensive Resource program, while academics are very important, my favorite things in the program is being able to teach the life skills and those skills that help them become successful and independent in every day life."

# FALL ALL-CONFERENCE HAWKEYES

## 14 Hawkeyes recognized as All-OK Blue Athletes for Fall Seasons



Top Left to Right: Grace Langeland, Malachi Lauer, Jackson Miller, Madie Jamrog, Seth Lappinga, Abatu Dykstra, Anevey Hager  
Bottom Left to Right: Emma DenUyl, Mason Blauwkamp, Ben Boehm, Jon Hawkins, Josh Langeland, Maxwell VanHuis, Trina Farris

Tennis: Mason Blauwkamp, Jackson Miller, Seth Lappinga | Soccer: Malachi Lauer  
Cross Country: Max VanHuis, Abatu Dykstra, Josh Langeland, Trina Farris | Volleyball: Madie Jamrog  
Football: Ben Boehm, Jon Hawkins | Swim and Dive: Grace Langeland, Emma DenUyl, Anevey Hager

Congratulations to all!

# ABC NIGHT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

## Academics, Basketball, Community Night helps celebrate accomplishments



On Friday, January 13, Hamilton Community Schools hosted 'ABC Night' to put a focus on academic accomplishments while also celebrating with the community. 114 students were recognized for their academic achievements thus far in the 2022-23 school year! The night also featured fun for all students in attendance with a photo booth, rally pom-poms, face painting and stickers, team posters and autographs, as well as player trading cards. Hamilton's boys and girls varsity basketball teams came away with wins over Unity Christian to complete the evening.

Hamilton Community Schools would like to thank all who attended and volunteered to help create such a wonderful evening.

# THE FEELING OF COMMUNITY

Hello everyone,  
I hope this email finds you well and I hope you had a great holiday season with friends and family. The school district is excited for a new calendar year and to build upon the positive momentum in which we started the school year. We look forward to making the second half of this academic year even better than the first half.

If you missed our recent ABC Night on January 13, you missed a great community event. What stood out to many that night was the great feeling of community. While in the crowd, I heard a parent from the opposing team comment on what a tremendous showing it was and how impressed they were with how Hamilton supports their students. After hearing that comment, it led me to think about all of the other great community events and activities which have occurred recently.

As you look through this edition of the Transcript, you will see several events and activities in which the school district and community came together to make long lasting memories for everyone involved. Hamilton is a special place for students and staff to learn, work, and grow. While there are many districts that provide a quality education and/or nice facilities for students and community members to enjoy, what differentiates Hamilton from the rest is the people!

The #HawkeyeNation is a proud group which has made their mark in many communities around West Michigan, the State of Michigan, and our nation. Enjoy this edition of the Transcript as I find it to be a special one highlighting some really special people in our district. Hamilton is a special place because of you.

As always, I invite all of you to attend any of our upcoming 'Scoop with the Supt.' community forums at Hawk's Nest Restaurant. These are typically held twice per month (except during any school breaks) on the first and third Thursday of the month. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please feel free to come by and enjoy some free coffee and light breakfast with myself and other members of our community.

Thank you for your support and always, #GoHawkeyes



Bradford Lusk, PhD  
Superintendent



## 'Scoop with the Supt.' Upcoming Dates

9:00 - 10:00 AM at Hawk's Nest Restaurant

Thursday, February 16

Thursday, March 2

Thursday, March 16

Thursday, April 20



# "ALL THIS IS, IS A BENEFIT"

## Inside the School Resource Officer partnership between the Allegan County Sheriff's Office and Hamilton Community Schools

By: Zach Harig

The announcement of the hiring of Deputy Joe Knapp as the new School Resource Officer (SRO) inside of the Hamilton Community Schools district spread like wildfire in November. A seasoned veteran of the Allegan County police force, parent of Hamilton graduates, and football coach in our district, Deputy Knapp was a perfect fit for the position.

While the addition of the SRO is an outstanding resource for the students, staff, and community of Hamilton, it's also a huge addition for the Allegan County Sheriff's Office.

"One of the nice things about these contracted positions is whenever we enter into a partnership with a new contract, we back-fill the the position on road patrol," said Allegan County Sheriff, Frank Baker. "There is no loss of general funded road patrol to the county, all this is, is a benefit. It benefits the community in which they serve and the overall county because it allows for more resources for us, in the event that they are needed."

Sheriff Baker, Undersheriff Mike Larsen, and Lieutenant Mike Brown joined Deputy Knapp and first-year Superintendent Dr. Bradford Lusk at Hamilton High School on December 5 to officially sign the partnership agreement between the district and Sheriff's Office.

"Deputy Knapp is not only a resource to the school but he has all of the resources of the entire Allegan County Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Baker added. "If there's a situation where something needs to be investigated, such as a threat or concern, he can call up our detective bureau and resources there to do what it takes to provide a safe resolution so that school can start on time and ensure everyone in the school feels safe."

Deputy Knapp has served Allegan County for 23 years and will continue to do so district-wide across all Hamilton school buildings.

**“It benefits the community in which they serve and the overall county because it allows for more resources for us, in the event that they are needed.”**

Sheriff Frank Baker  
Allegan County Sheriff's Office



The Allegan County Sheriff's Office joined Deputy Knapp and Dr. Lusk for an official signing of the agreement between the district and Sheriff's Office on December 5. From left to right: Lieutenant Mike Brown, Superintendent Dr. Bradford Lusk, SRO Deputy Joe Knapp, Sheriff Frank Baker, Undersheriff Mike Larsen

# WOODTV METEOROLOGIST BLAKE HARMS VISITS HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

By: Zach Harig



Blake Harms has been doing what he loves since he was 13 years old when he began his snow day predictions on social media. Fast forward ten years later, Blake has landed his dream job at WOODTV 8 in Grand Rapids as a meteorologist.

On Friday, December 9, Blake was kind enough to volunteer his time to present to all Hamilton Middle School eighth graders. "Mrs. [Stacy] DeWeerd actually reached out to me and asked if I'd be willing to come to talk to her classes about weather, and I happily obliged," said Harms.

As the eighth graders learn about our weather, the effect of Lake Michigan, and the power of science in our forecasts, it was perfect timing for Blake's visit.

"We're focusing on what the TV industry looks like in meteorology but also what makes forecasts so difficult in West Michigan, school closing predictions, and all of that fun stuff," he added.

Harms explained how the Great Lakes, oceans, and mountains across the world can make weather unpredictable. He also explained more about his journey turning his passion into a career.

"I started the school closing predictions when I was around their age. What I want to get across to them is you don't have to be a professional to do what you love or getting your feet wet, just try it, make mistakes, and it will all help you out in the future."



Scan the QR Code for a video on Blake's visit!



# WORKING TOGETHER: INSIDE THE MENTOR PE CLASS MAKING AN IMPACT ON STUDENTS AT HMS

Mrs. VandeWege's 7th Hour PE class pairs Intensive Resource students with classmate helpers

By: Zach Harig



It's a class that is blazing trails inside the walls of Hamilton Middle School. The Mentor Physical Education class created and led by Mrs. Liz VandeWege has served a multi-tiered purpose since its inception in 2018.

Every school day during seventh hour, Mrs. Sale's middle school daily living skills class heads to the gym for physical education. However, this isn't a typical gym class.

"This class is helping those with disabilities and students that have to be in other classes for their disabilities," said eighth grade helper, Grayden Lubbers. "We have them all as friends, and that's the best part of this class."

Every trimester, roughly fifteen seventh and eighth grade students are selected to become a class helper among dozens of applicants. These students are selected by Mrs. VandeWege and fellow teachers based on their leadership, social skills, and other characteristics.

"Oh it melts my heart," said Mrs. VandeWege, who created the class when she began at Hamilton Middle School. "I smile so much seeing them come up with different games and ways to help each other to make it more fun, it's the best thing in the world."

At the beginning of each class, helpers are paired with their student to help them achieve different individualized goals. For some students, goals can include running four laps without stopping, a ten-second plank or throwing a ball a few feet. No matter what their goal sheet looks like, the helpers take it upon themselves to help that student achieve.

"It helps the Intensive Resource Room students learn PE skills that they can hopefully translate into the rest of their life," VandeWege smiled. "However, it's also great for my seventh and eighth grade kids so they get experience working with other kids and learning about different disabilities."

Outside of the gym, the relationships carry over to the lunch room and hallway, where the helpers ensure each of their friends are taken care of.

"This class shows them a group of kids that really care about them and will help them through time of struggle," said eighth grade helper Brooke Petroelje. "They're not any different than us, they're our friends and we hangout with them every day."



Scan the QR Code for a video inside the class!



# MISS RENKEMA OPENS 'STARBOOKS CAFE'

Hamilton Elementary fourth graders read in a fun and engaging way!



Hamilton may not have a Starbucks Coffee shop, but Hamilton Elementary has the 'Starbooks Cafe' thanks to fourth grade teacher, Miss Renkema. While Bliss Bakery and local restaurants have several tasty treats, there is nothing quite like the book tasting going on in the classroom to spark the students' interests.

Miss Renkema found the 'Starbooks Cafe' idea on Instagram one evening which certainly sparked her interest. After break, she put that creative idea into action. On January 3, her students came to class, grabbed a book and ordered a beverage. From there, the students would read a few pages and then fill out their 'book tasting' information, including if they were or weren't intrigued by the book and why. Every five minutes, the students would switch books and continue to write down information about each of them. Eventually, the students will choose a book for their upcoming book club.

"We are doing a book tasting because our next two units reading and writing revolve around the kids being able to interact with text and create some big ideas based on that. We want them to have a lot of choice in which books they're reading, so this is a way that they can try different books to see what they like and what's interesting to them," Renkema explained. "Coming back from holiday break, this is a great way for the students to learn and the hope is that they get excited about their upcoming books in our book club and get ready to dive into some really good learning."

## BLUE STAR STUDENTS LEARN FROM AUTHOR, TAMI CORBETT

Blue Star Elementary kicked off January's character trait, Self-Discipline, with an assembly on January 6! The students had a chance to learn their trait from special guest and published author, illustrator, and Blue Star principal Mrs. Kari Huckaby's sister, Tami Corbett.

Mrs. Corbett wrote the book, 'Chickenbit is Brave', about a crossbeak chicken who is determined to get the help she needs to eat and drink. Chickenbit shows us how she used self-discipline to do things she didn't want to do because she was scared.

"Mrs. Corbett talked about this month's character trait of self-control and doing the next right thing even if it is hard, which the character Chickenbit learned to do in the story," said principal, Mrs. Huckaby.

A big thank you to Mrs. Corbett for stopping by and visiting our students!



Blue Star Elementary principal, Mrs. Kari Huckaby (left) smiles with her sister, and author, Mrs. Tami Corbett.

# HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR PERFORMS AT YANFENG 'CARE AND SHARE'

The Hamilton High School Honors Choir and Women's Chorale were each invited to Yanfeng Automotive Interiors in Holland to perform in front of hundreds of their employees at their 'Care and Share' program. On Tuesday, December 6, the women's chorale performed for the technical team and two days later, the honors choir performed for 1st shift employees before both capped the day by singing for the 2nd shift employees.

Mrs. Holly Israels leads the vocal music groups and says the performances at Yanfeng actually helped prepare her students for their Christmas concert just one week later. However, this wasn't their only extracurricular event of the holiday season as the group visited Hamilton Dentistry Christmas tree lighting and caroled at two assisted living facilities.



It was a privilege to be invited to perform for the employees of Yanfeng Southview plant," Israels said. "We love to sing and we love to bring joy to others through our music. The students said they enjoyed making the employees' faces light up with their music or even bring tears to audience members' eyes as they sang. The employees said that hearing them sing was like a break from the busy-ness of the season."

The 'Care and Share' program raises money for local charities in the Holland area and has been going on for decades now. Thank you to Yanfeng for the invite and a job well done to all Hamilton High School choir groups!

# PRESCHOOLER GRETA OVERCOMES FEARS OF SCHOOL WITH HELP FROM HAWKEYE PRESCHOOL STAFF

It's never easy for a parent to drop their child off for their first day of school. For Hamilton resident Steve Klingenberg and his daughter Greta, it was tougher than he ever imagined.

"When we were at home, she was super excited about going to preschool and then when we rounded the corner for school, she started to cry," Steve recalled about the first day of school.

For the first four weeks of school, Greta was unsettled and clinging to her father's leg begging him not to leave every single day.

"I was going to forget it," he admitted, "I thought she was too young, but I was going to forget it and just keep her home."

Slowly but surely, Greta began to make friends, enjoy her time with staff, and play throughout the day. Steve says he gives the Hawkeye Preschool staff all of the credit for their work with her, even on those hard days.

"I'm very, very thankful," said Steve, "The staff stayed with her, they didn't give up. Every day when I walked in, they gave Greta a big smile and she warmed up to them and now, she's learning a lot and becoming very smart."



Hawkeye Preschool offers classes for kids ages 3-4 in the Hamilton Community School district as well as all surrounding districts. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year will open in mid to late February with limited spots in each class. The enrollment link as well as all important information can be found on our Hawkeye Preschool website. If you have any questions, please call Sandyview Elementary at 269-751-5372.

# BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION



January was Board of Education Appreciation month as we recognize the continual efforts of our Hamilton board members. We are blessed with outstanding community leaders who put our students first.

Thank you to all who have, and continue to serve our district!

*Thank You*

A look at the current Hamilton Board of Education members.

From left to right: Carl Marshall, Morgan Maul, Deb Brower, Craig VanBeek, Loren Joostberns, Lisa Theodore, Ross Miedema.

## CAROLS WITH CRAIG!

Board of Education president Craig VanBeek leads students in Christmas Carols



Scan the QR Code for a video of Craig's visit to Hamilton Elementary!

Board of Education president Craig VanBeek stopped by Hamilton and Bentheim Elementary schools on Friday, December 9 with his guitar to play some Christmas carols for students! VanBeek played for all Hamilton Elementary kindergartners before stopping into Bentheim to play for both Bentheim Elementary lunches.

# OCSN COORDINATORS HOST ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT PICKUP FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

37 families in need in our community receive a total of nearly 300 toys in 2022!



From left to right: School Resource Officer, Deputy Joe Knapp, OCSN Coordinator Jenna Walbeck, OCSN Coordinator Sarah Manner, and Superintendent Dr. Bradford Lusk.



Deputy Knapp and Superintendent Lusk were among the volunteers during the gift pickup on December 13.

By: Zach Harig

The Ottawa Community Schools Network coordinators held their annual holiday gift pickup for local families in need on Tuesday, December 13 with help from local sponsors.

"We have a lot of gifts, Hungry for Christ provided food for the families, we have coats, wrapping paper, and much more," said OCSN Coordinator, Jenna Walbeck.

The event was held at the Old Bus Garage, allowing families to come in and pick up any items they need. It's the end of a lengthy preparation process for Jenna and the OCSN team.

"We start our outreach in October, so this is a long process but seeing the families come in and seeing the joy on their faces and how grateful they are, it's my favorite day of the year in this role in Hamilton," she smiled.

This year, 37 different families were aided with nearly 300 total gifts from local sponsors.

"A lot of needs in our community have been filled," Jenna added.

A big thanks to all of our sponsors and outstanding OCSN Coordinators for giving back to our community!

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY PICK-UP DATES

Every month, our OCSN coordinators and Feeding America West Michigan put on a mobile food pantry. Mobile pantries are like farmers markets on wheels that provide groceries—including produce, protein, dairy, grains and more—to anyone in need at no charge. Any family in our community in need is welcome to come and get fresh food and other resources.

Our OCSN coordinators would like to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors, past and present for helping them to put wonderful resource on!

**Where: Hamilton's "Old Bus Garage"**  
**3644 48th Street, Hamilton, MI 49419**  
Lineup begins at 4:45 PM!

Monday, February 27  
Monday, March 27  
Monday, April 24  
Monday, May 22



These dates can always be found on our website [www.HamiltonSchools.us](http://www.HamiltonSchools.us) and clicking on the 'OCSN' tab!

# HAMILTON'S NEW WORK BASED LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

By: Ashley Meyer

In order to graduate from Hamilton Community Schools, **all students must complete THREE of the tasks listed below. At least one of the activities must come from the training category.**

## Preparation

Learning that requires direct interaction over a period of time with a professional requiring application of transferable skills

### High School Courses

- Careerline Tech Center course
- AP (Advanced Placement)/College Level course
  - Advanced Geology
  - AP Calculus AB
  - AP Chemistry
  - AP English Lang and Comp
  - AP English Lit and Comp
  - AP Physics C-Mechanics
  - AP US History
  - AP World History
  - AP Spanish Language
  - College Algebra
- Business Innovations course
- Business Development course (CTE)
- Professional Selling course
- Dual Enrollment course
- Early College

### School Sponsored Activities

- Exchange program
- DECA
- Science Olympiad
- Student Council
- Class Officer
- First Robotics Team
- LINKS

### FuturePREP'd PREP'd Connect Program

### US Military Preparation Programs

- US ARMY S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Active Roles) Club
- Others as approved

### Agricultural Preparation Programming

- Showing/Selling Animal at County Fair

Careerline Tech Center Career Camp

## Training

Learning that happens through on-the-job experiences

### High School Courses

- School Store Marketing Course
- Intro to Teaching/Teaching Practices Course
- Co-Op

### Work Experiences

- Co-Op
- Internship
- Job
- Careerline Tech Center Work Based Learning Program Placement
- Careerline Tech Center Capstone/Pre-Apprenticeship Program

### Summer Project Based Learning Programs

- FuturePREP'd IChallengeU
- Hamilton Summer PBL

### US Military Training Experience

- Basic Training
- Junior ROTC
- Others as approved

### Future PREP'd Academy Program

### Other (Approved by Committee)

- Approval Request Form
- Verification Form

SCAN ME



Scan the QR Code to access the Work Based Learning website, including a full breakdown of requirements and contacts for any questions!

Beginning with the class of 2027, students will have graduation requirements that include Work Based Learning.

Work Based Learning (WBL) gives students the opportunity to:

- Bring relevance to learning
- Explore career possibilities, and
- Make informed decisions about what's next

Hamilton Community Schools is committed to providing Work Based Learning experiences throughout a student's education in fifth through twelfth grade. Career awareness and exploration are provided through a myriad of experiences. Students receive guidance and instruction throughout the experiences meant to grow students' ability to interact with professionals and become more self aware regarding strengths and interests.

Students have all four years of high school to complete their Work Based Learning graduation requirements (including summers-beginning the summer after 8th grade completion). WBL graduation requirements can be fulfilled by a wide variety of opportunities ranging from a student working a summer job, to taking an AP class, to participating in DECA, 4H, or military preparatory programming.

In order to graduate from Hamilton Community Schools, all students must complete THREE of the tasks listed above. At least one of the activities must come from the training category. Each opportunity is explained in greater detail on our website with information that includes: an activity description, how to access the opportunity, what successful completion looks like, and how to verify completion. For opportunities that students are engaged in that might fit into the Preparation or Training categories but aren't listed, students can submit an application to have their experience approved for fulfilling a WBL graduation requirement.

To learn more about Hamilton's Work Based Learning Programming and Graduation Requirements, please visit our Work Based Learning page on the Hamilton Community Schools website by accessing the QR code above!

# CONRAD THE PUPPET HELPS BENTHEIM YOUNG FIVERS WRITE & COUNT NUMBERS

Mrs. Perdue's class utilizes their friend Conrad to help students retain their learning

As the Bentheim Elementary young fivers continue to work with their numbers and letters, they have a special guest who can help them.

Mrs. Kate Perdue has been utilizing three puppets to help her students retain their learning this year: Lila the letter bird, Tucker the turtle and Conrad the confused crow, each serving a different purpose in the classroom.

Lila helps students learn their letters, sounds, how to form letters, and how to segment sounds in words. Conrad usually helps with math and science and is often confused about common errors that students make so they have to gently correct him which reinforces their own learning. Tucker helps teach social-emotional skills in the classroom, including calming strategies to use when upset and also how to identify one's own emotions and those of others. Students also have the opportunity to make their own puppets to take home to help them work through problem solving steps and to select appropriate solutions when a problem arises.

Together, Conrad and the class write through their numbers 1-10. At times, when Conrad makes a mistake, the class is called upon to help him fix it.

"The impact of using these puppets in the classroom is huge! Not only do these puppets increase student interest and engagement, but they also increase student creativity and communication skills as well," said Mrs. Perdue. "Puppets allow students to use their imagination and act out and pretend various situations, thoughts, and feelings in their own learning and experience. When students are interacting with the puppets, they feel as though they are talking to a friend which creates a more relaxed environment where they feel safe to take risks in their learning."



## "I'VE FELT AT HOME HERE"

Brian Lancaster looks back at 32 years and counting in Hamilton

After graduating from college, Brian Lancaster recalls being offered a job by a district he had never heard of before. In fact, he didn't even know how far it was from his home in Jenison.

The rest, as they say, is history. That memory was 32 years ago and that district, was Hamilton Community Schools. Since then, Mr. Lancaster says he has never looked back.

"I felt at home here, everyone has made me feel welcome here," Lancaster said, "People always said you'll just start here and go on to somewhere closer to your home. However, I've honestly never even thought about leaving."

Lancaster says time has flown by and while he thought he'd be excited to retire back when he was in his first year at Blue Star Elementary in 1991. He says he's looking forward to continuing for at least a few more years.

"I really don't look to be done doing it, I know that time will come at some point but right now, it doesn't really feel like it."



# MRS. PETERSEN'S TOWER GARDEN PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**"The tower gardens are a fun way for the kids to get excited about health!"**

For the past eight years, Mrs. Megan Petersen has been engaging her students with the addition of the tower garden to her physical education class.

While hearing the term "tower garden" may raise questions, rest assured it is exactly what it sounds like: a garden on wheels standing eight foot or so high. The tower garden utilizes a tub of water at its base and bright fluorescent grow lights to help plants thrive.

On Wednesday, January 11, the kindergarten class at Hamilton Elementary watched in awe as Mrs. Petersen showed them how it works. Each student then had the chance to place a seed inside the fiber soil and take its spot in the garden.

"The tower gardens are a fun way for the kids to get excited about health," Mrs. Petersen said, "We found that over the years, it is tough to meet the kids' standards for health with pictures of food. However, once they interact with it and grow their own, they eat what they grow and learn how it all works."

Over the next several weeks, the students will watch their lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, snap peas, and much more grow.

"Some of the kids who don't like PE and the moving part, they love the health part and learning part, so they get really engaged and turn on a love for that through the tower garden, we have a lot of fun with it," Petersen added.

In February, Mrs. Petersen will put together salads for each student so that they can get a taste of the food they helped plant.



# SANDYVIEW KINDERGARTENERS RECEIVE WRITING CROWNS

By: Danielle Orr

In Kindergarten, we started the year learning a lot of foundational skills to help us become better readers and writers. We use Writing Workshop in our school and with this, students are able to engage in a variety of exciting hands-on experiences to help foster a skill and love for writing. At the beginning of the year we started off with an Oral Language Unit to help prep students to write their own stories. This last Unit, we were able to start putting all of our new skills to work by creating our own pattern books. Students showed an excitement to come and write in their books everyday. To celebrate this growth and success, we held a Writing Celebration to recognize each student as an official author and writer. They received crowns and were able to share a piece of writing with the class. They have already grown so much and are becoming better writers and readers every day!



# TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Published bi-monthly by:

#EachWillThrive

**HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

4815 136th Avenue Hamilton, MI 49419

HAMILTONSCHOOLS.US



## FACE PAINTING AT HAMILTON VIRTUAL'S 'CLOWN CLASS'!

By: Trisha Heap



This year Hamilton Virtual School offered a circus school class for K-5 students. In this class students will have the opportunity to practice movement including juggling lessons and some acrobats. Students also learn the math behind some fun tricks, and read and write jokes to clown around. One fun activity that students recently learned was how to face paint. Students enjoyed interacting with each other while showing off some of their artistic skills.

## STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH ALL DISTRICT HAPPENINGS!



'Like' us on Facebook

Hamilton Community Schools continues to use Facebook to provide real-time district news and happenings to the community.



Stay tuned to our District Website!

The Hamilton Community Schools district website homepage hosts articles that will feature the latest news, upcoming events, videos, photos, and much more!



Watch our YouTube Videos!

To give all stakeholders a look into the classroom, we are on YouTube! Check out our videos to see the latest fun events happening in our school buildings, staff spotlights, and much more!

Scan the QR Codes to access the links to these pages!